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2. — *Recollections of the last four Popes, and of Rome in their Days.*

By H. E. CARDINAL WISEMAN. London: Hurst and Blackett.
1858. 8vo. pp. 532.

It is just forty years since Cardinal Wiseman was sent to Rome with five companions "to colonize the English College in that city, after it had been desolate and uninhabited during almost the period of a generation." There he resided for twenty-two years, until he was appointed to a high ecclesiastical station in England. His personal recollections of the Papal Court, therefore, extend over the latter part of the Pontificate of Pius VII., the whole of the Pontificates of Leo XII. and Pius VIII., and the early years of Gregory XVI. With each of these Popes he was brought into personal intercourse, and from each he received special favors. To this circumstance probably we must ascribe the very marked Ultramontane tinge which colors his Eminence's pages. It is certainly an edifying spectacle to see how entirely he has divested himself of the prejudices which even an English Catholic might be supposed to entertain; for though he did not happen to be born in England, nor to be descended from an English family, his earliest impressions must have been received under British institutions. But making allowance for opinions which few English or American readers will share, his volume is an acceptable contribution to historical literature, varied and interesting in details, racy in style, and genial in tone. With a thorough acquaintance with his subject and a profound veneration for every wearer of the triple crown, his Eminence unites a keen sense of the ridiculous and a genuine relish for quiet humor, which give vivacity to his picturesque descriptions and lend an added interest to an attractive subject. Nor does he disdain to point his sentences with sarcastic allusions to the real or imagined follies of others.

The four Popes are of course the central figures upon his canvas, and he has lavished all his resources upon the delineation. Their characters are drawn with a reverent touch,—the virtuous traits all brought out in due prominence, and the weaknesses thrown into the shade; their services to the Church and the Roman state are rehearsed with watchful care,—no praiseworthy act forgotten, and no doubtful step or failure to act left undefended; and their public and private lives are made reciprocally to illustrate each other by striking anecdotes drawn from the author's well-stored memory. The section devoted to Pius VII. is the longest, and in some respects the most attractive; principally, however, on account of its chapters upon the art, literature, condition, and public sentiment of Rome in the early

part of this century. But it was for Gregory XVI. that Cardinal Wiseman felt the strongest personal attachment. He had received many favors from that Pontiff when he was known only as Cardinal Capellari and Prefect of the Propaganda. "You must now revise your own proofs," were the first words which the new Pope addressed to his admirer a few days after his accession; "I fear I shall not have much time in future to correct them." The allusion, we are told, was to a little work in Italian which the young foreigner was then printing, and the proof-sheets of which Capellari had undertaken to revise. This friendly act was followed by others, continuing through the whole of Gregory's Pontificate. It is not to the Supreme Pontiffs alone, however, that Cardinal Wiseman introduces his readers. His volume also contains interesting notices of Cardinal Consalvi, the celebrated minister of Pius VII. at the Congress of Vienna, of Cardinal Mezzofanti, universally known for his marvellous philological acquirements, of Cardinal Angelo Mai, the discoverer of Cicero's *De Republica* and many other lost treasures of classical literature, of the two English Cardinals, Weld and Acton, of Dr. Lingard, the Catholic historian of England, of the brilliant and wayward Abbé de la Mennais, and of many other dignitaries of lesser note.

The volume is enriched by four beautifully engraved portraits. They furnish a curious commentary upon the text, to one who carefully studies the differences of character so strikingly exhibited in them. Rarely have we seen a more remarkable contrast than each portrait presents to all the others.

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3. — *The Boscobel Tracts, relating to the Escape of Charles the Second after the Battle of Worcester, and his Subsequent Adventures.* Edited by J. HUGHES, Esq., A. M., Author of "Provence and the Rhone." Second Edition. Edinburgh and London: W. Blackwood and Sons. 1857. 8vo. pp. 399.

THE first edition of this work was published many years ago, at the suggestion of Bishop Copleston, who rightly regarded the escape of Charles the Second after the battle of Worcester as one of the most romantic incidents in English history, and who thought that a collection of documents illustrative of that event would be an acceptable and useful contribution to historical literature. He accordingly in 1827 addressed a letter to Mr. Hughes, expressing a strong desire "that some one, qualified both by education and taste for such a task, would undertake to sift all the historical materials relating to it which